



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

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PRESS RELEASE

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Misdemeanor Probation Bench Card Presented to Judicial Council

Atlanta, GA — The Judicial Council of Georgia's Policy and Legislative Committee, chaired by Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines, has sponsored a Misdemeanor Probation Bench Card to provide a resource to Georgia judges. This bench card is designed to provide judges with guidance on the relevant legal principles regarding misdemeanor probation, including first offenders placed on misdemeanor probation under Article 6 of Title 42, Chapter 8. It focuses in particular on how to address the situation of indigent misdemeanor defendants and probationers and contains information about recent changes to Georgia law under Senate Bill 367 (2016) and House Bill 310 (2015).

Developed in partnership with the Criminal Justice Policy Program at Harvard Law School, and through the leadership of Judge Michael Boggs, Court of Appeals of Georgia and Co-Chair, Governor's Council on Criminal Justice Reform, and expertise of Judge Ben Studdard, State Court of Henry County, this resource will be distributed statewide and updated periodically as necessary.

The card was presented to the Judicial Council at its August 31 General Session. The bench card is available in electronic form [here](#).
